SHADOWS-1

Monthly-Oct. 1976 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

AN INTRODUCTION

With this issue starts, what I hope will be, a long-lifed newsletter dealing primarily with research and investigations into as yet unidentified animals.

For the foreseeable future SHADOWS will remain, except for minor alterations, as you now see it (this space will normally be reserved for short articles.) This first issue is being sent to 35 researchers and investigators in the U.S., Canada, Australia, England and France. I am prepared to enlarge the mailing list to 50, so if know of anyone who would seriously like to recieve SHADOWS please send me their name and address.

As how to continue recieving SHADOWS; as I am footing the printing bills I am requesting that you send me a stamp for each subsequent issue you wish to recieve. Along with the stamps I also request that you send me some information which I will be able to use for continued SHADOWS publication. These can be newsclippings, notes on events, notice of new books or articles, and most especially I would like short (1-1½ pg.), precise articles on any research or investigation that you're involved with. Names may be left out but I expect everything else to be as accurate as possible. When sending in anything please note the source, date of source, origin of source and your name. If you fail to send in a stamp and material you will recieve one more issue and if by that time I still have not recieved anything I will drop your name from the mailing list. This rule is somewhat bendable depending on circumstances.

If any "member" is working on a project they may request non-confidential material from my files, and payment for copying charges or an exchange or sorts will be worked out. Also one half of page 4 will be set aside for requests for information, etc. All correspondents should include a stamped envelope if you expect a reply.

Members are also urged to send in any other data that they run across dealing with anomalous events such as UFO's, etc. Such data will be sent to the large UFO organizations or to interested researchers.

It is my goal with this newsletter to better communications between researchers and to "steer" information to where it will do the most good.

I am looking forward to your critisms, suggestions and feedback.

Tim Church

NOTES

Mr. Joeseph Zarynski and Mr. Bierman, I recently learned, have been investigating the Lake Champlain (border of Vt.and N.Y.) "monster" reports. They've conducted an extensive two week shore watch and have interviewed many witnesses. They hope to write a short report of their finding to date, I hope to wrangle permission to publish it in this newsletter. I for one am extremely glad to learn of their investigations, Lake Champlain's creature having the longest written history of any of the New World's Nessies.

An expedition led by Mr. Adrian Shrine to Loch Morar is now underway. They plan to use underwater TV cameras located at the 100 foot depth.

TWO MORE CARCASSES

Two recent supposed sea serpent carcasses have been found.

In July a 25 foot, hairy, dinosaur-like creature with hind legs was found on Nova Scotia's Cape Brenton coast. A fisheries officer, Mr. Alex MacEachern was quoted as saying "It's the closest thing to a dinosaur I ever saw." Scientists from the Bedford Institute of Oceanography are investigating.

And a 1974 note of "a monstrous reptile" found on a beach at Laredo, Spain. From the photo I'd guess it's about 10-15 feet long, narrow bodied and with what looks like a short tail. A team of Zoologists were then studying it.

Sources; MIDNIGHT, Aug. 12, 1974; Arizona DAILY STAR, July 17, 1976; unidentified Canadian paper of Aug.?, 1976. Credit: Ron Dobbins and Lou Farish.

A SEA SERPENT PHOTO?

In the June issue of SKIN DIVER appeared a letter from one Robert Straughan of Belleview, Flo.

In the letter he related how, in 1974, while sailing off British Honduras he saw what "looked like a giant sea serpent about 90 feet long," on a shallow reef. "It was spread out full length and moving slowly." He took both movie and still shots of it. He then remembered that on the previous day he had seen a "huge orange object. It looked like two large rubber rafts twisted together." He later questioned natives about his sightings and recieved a reply to the effect that the creature was old news. Mr. Straughan put two of the photos in his book ADVENTURE IN BELIZE and also gave it the scientific name of Gloveris serpentarius straughani. I have not yet seen these pictures, and the $17.50 price tag of the book makes me even more suspicious of the whole thing. I did write to him and asked for more particulars and perhaps a copy of one of the photos if possible. His reply more or less told me to read it in his book. He did mention that he had written to Dr. Heuvelmans about it.-Tim Church

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ORGANIZATIONS & JOURNALS

NESSLETTER, news of current events at Loch Ness and elsewhere, bimonthly, usually runs 4-6 pages with a reprint of a news article on Nessie usually included too. $7.00 for a year, from R.R. Hepple, Huntshieldford Cottage, St. John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ, England.

THE FORTEAN NEWS put out by Bob Rickard, a fine journal packed with notes on all sorts of oddities, guaranteed to start your rusted brain a-working. $6.00 for 6 issues, from; THE FORTEAN NEWS, Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berks, England. Bob is running this on a shoe string budget and is in danger of going down the tubes unless more people subscribe, so SUBSCRIBE.

INFO JOURNAL, put out monthly by the International Fortean Society. Membership is $10.00 a year, from; INFO, P.O. Box 367, Arlington, Va. 22210

PURSUIT, The journal of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. Quarterly, from; SITU, R.D. 1, Columbia, N.J. 07832. $10.00 for a years membership.

BIGFOOT NEWS, a four page newsletter on Peter Bryne's group and their investigations. $5.00 for 12 issues, from; BIGFOOT NEWS, P.O. Box 632, The Dalles, Ore. 97058.

San Francisco CHRONICLE
Aug. 6, 1976
credit; Lou Farish---

'Dragon-like' Monster in Swiss Lake

Zurich

A rival to Scotland's Loch Ness Monster appeared yesterday on the front pages of Switzerland's widest-circulating newspaper backed up by photographs and accounts of people claiming to have seen it in a Swiss lake.

A report in the tabloid Blick newspaper said a "dragon-like" monster emerged snorting on the surface of Lake Uri Saturday in central Switzerland about 300 yards from the shore.

After a few moments it dived but reappeared twice more before finally disappearing, the report said.

An accompanying photograph, which the paper said was taken at long range from the shore, showed a dark humped object in the water.

The newspaper printed an enlargement of the section showing the "monster," alongside a similar picture purporting to depict the Loch Ness Monster, and remarked that they were "amazingly alike," with serpent-like heads and humped backs.

Blick quoted a local boat attendant, Kurt Mathis, as saying, "suddenly I saw an object in the water about 15 meters long and two metero (about six feet) high.

"At first I thought it was a crashed aircraft but I was surprised because I had heard no noise. When it surfaced for the second time I could hardly believe my eyes.

"I saw from the side a head and a humped back like a dinosaur. people round about me shouted and pointdd at the lake," he said.

Reuters

4C—Arkansas Democrat—Thurs., Sept. 2, 1976

'Monster' in lake was hoax

Times Post News Service
(Agence-France Presse)

BRUNNEN, Switzerland — The myth of the "monster" that appeared in Lak. Lucerne, near Brunnen, over the weekend was deflated Tuesday.

Switzerland's own "Loch Ness Monster," which drew crowds and tourist dollars to the lake area, turned out be be a 50-foot inflatable "animal," complete with floats and flippers for realistic diving and surfacing — and especially made for a television broadcast.

The Swiss press had reported the monster's appearance in the lake on Saturday, with photos showing two dark patches on the surface of the water.

Mr. Ripley, One For You

Local law enforcement officials received a somewhat out-of-the-ordinary call at 3:20 Sunday morning.

A Missoula man, whose name was not released by the Kalispell Police Department for rather obvious reasons, reported seeing two huge gorillas 20 miles west of Kalispell on U.S. 2.

The man said the gorillas were walking on their hind legs and one forced him off the road. The Missoula resident claimed he had not been drinking, a fact verified by investigating officers.

He was advised to call the county attorney and file a complaint against the gorilla. 73

Kalispell, Mt. INTER-LAKE, Sept. 4, 1973.

THE VANCOUVER SUN: FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1976

'MUSSY'

Monster sighted in lake

MUSKRAT LAKE, Ont. (CP) — Mussy the Muskrat Lake monster may not have the international reputation of Nessy of Loch Ness, but here's a sea serpent with a history, or at least a legend, dating back more than 350 years.

Since first described to Champlain by Indians, Mussy is said to have been sighted at least five times on this 10-mile-long lake about 75 miles west of Ottawa. "Alligator head" and "grasshopper-like legs" are the terms most often used to describe the monster, which is said to be about 20 feet long.

Until recently, Mussy was heard from infrequently on the surface of the lake. But in 1941 a man reported seeing "an object as large as the average horse" while fishing.

The presence of such a creature in a lake so far from the ocean does not surprise some people at all.

Muskrat Lake was once part of the Champlain Sea, a body of salt water that covered the Great Lakes and connected with the Atlantic Ocean. It receded about 9,500 years ago, leaving behind Muskrat Lake and whatever had been living in it. Though tiny in comparison, the lake is 240 feet deep in parts.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

OUI, Oct. 1976 has an excellent article on the Texas "Big Bird" sightings. Mr. Clark's investigations turned up evidence that the "Bird" is not a recent arrival.

The Nov. issue of ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS has a Loch Ness article by Aldo Malourque. He brings up some very valid points aganist the plesisaur theroy. He goes on to suggest the possiblity of a giant squid being our culprit. Mr. Malourque doesn't really back this up with any hard evidence, but it is a novel theroy.

Loren Coleman and Jerome Clarks' "sequel" to THE UNIDENTIFIED is due out shortly, also by Warner. This one will deal with all the unusual beasties that seem to roam our globe. I for one am looking forward to it's release.

Dr. Roy Mackals', THE MONSTERS OF LOCH NESS is now out. 401 pgs., $12.50 from the Swallow Press.

A new, and I hear excellent book on Bigfoot is out, entitled BIGFOOT it details the authors' investigations into sightings around Antelope Valley in Southern California. Available from Bantam Books, for $1.50.

Stan Gordon's team is now offering an 8-track or cassette tape of interviews with Bigfoot witnesses and as a bonus the alleged scream of a Pa. Bigfoot. $7.98 from Penn. Center for UFO Research, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greenburg, Pa. 15601. Be sure to specify 8-track or cassette.

Tim Dinsdale's new book, PROJECT WATERHORSE should be coming to our shores soon. Details the problems and triumphs he's experienced in his decade of searching.

For those of you who think that books are too expensive nowadays you might try BOOKQUICK, they give a 33.3% discount on current bestsellers, a 30% discount on books retailing for $10.00 or more, and 25% on books from $3.00 to $10.00. BOOKQUICK, Box B, Roseland, N.J. 07068.

Tim Church
P.O. Box 932
Missoula, Mt. 59807

MISSOULA, MT
PM
OCT 9
1976

Gary Mangiacopra
7 Arlmont St.
Milford, Cn. 06460

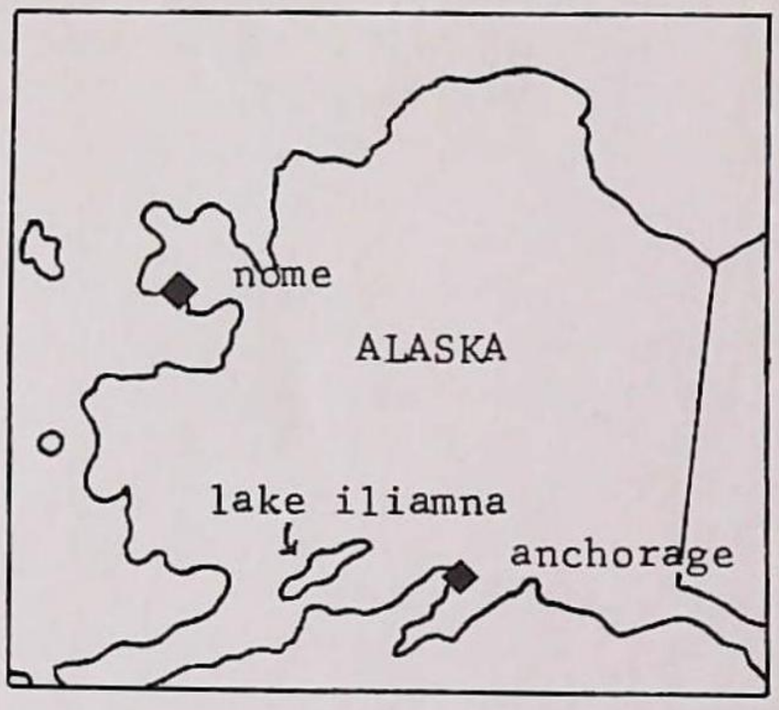
SHADOWS-2

Monthly-Nov., 1976 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

THE LAKE ILIAMNA CREATURE

Lake Iliamna, Alaska is the 7th largest freshwater lake in the world and as if that weren't enough it also boasts a "monster."

The lake is 90 miles long and up to 25 miles wide, and covers 1,000 square miles. It reaches a depth of over 1300 feet, but on the average is "only" 600 feet deep.



Eskimo legends state that the 25 miles of open water between Big Mountain and Midway Island is the home of the creature. There is also a belief that anything red that ventures out onto the lake will be destroyed by the monster. The monster is likewise thought to bring death to those who dare look upon it.

Stories of the creature did not really begin to circulate until World War II, when Navy fliers reported seeing huge shadwos gliding just beneath the surface.

In 1942 two experienced woodsmen spotted a dozen "fish" while flying near Midway Island. Their first estimate of a 10 foot length had to revised to 20 when they dropped lower. Upon landing the two men down the list of possiblities-Sturgeon or Lake Trout? No, not the right shape. Whales or Walruses? No, they had not observed any blowing during the 20 minutes that they had had the creatures in sight. A Shark? No, not big enough. A Baluga Whale was the popular explanation at the time but again they had seen no blowing and both men were familar with Balugas and did not see any resemblance.

In 1947 one of the men published his experience in the hopes of being contacted by other witnesses.

Two people responded, one was Larry Rost, a pilot for the U.S.G.S. In 1945, while flying across the lake he thought he saw a submerged rock off Midway Island. Dropping low he was startled to see the water around the "rock" churning and then suddenly the rock disappeared. He later described it as about 20 feet long with a dull aluminum color.

The other respondent was Carlos Carson, a game warden at Iliamna. While flying near the mouth of Talarik Creek he noticed several logs below, curious as no logging was being done in the area he decided to get a closer look. As usual the "logs" proceeded to come to life and sink from sight.

Then there is the oft repeated story of the fishing expedition that attempted to catch the monster. Using 1/16 inch stainless steel wire for line, a 1/4 inch thick iron rod bent into a hook, a 55 gallon oil drum as a bobber and a chunk of moose as bait they waited patiently. Something found the bait palatable, as the bobber suddenly sank from sight followed closely by the vicious snap of the line.

In the late 1960's even American astronauts reported seeing large, strange shadows in the lake as they flew over it on vacation.

The reports tend to cluster around October and September, the relatively few reports even at this peak time can be attributed to the bad weather which begins at this time and keeps most people inside.

The history and descriptions of the Lake Iliamna creature closely follows the pattern of the more established "monsters", even down to the ever present offer of a reward (I wonder how much all the rewards for monsters would come to if one took the time to add them up? Hmmm. My income last year...). Back to the story, Sturgeon are again pointed to by most as the cause of the mystery.

It is these similarities that make the strongest arguement in favor of there being at least one unidentified fresh-water creature. Whether or not it is an exotic remanent dinosaur or a common form of salt water animal adapted to a fresh-water enviroment is an intriguing question. Any thoughts on this? Tim Church.

Sources; "Alaska's Monster Mystery Fish" by Gil Paust, SPORTS AFIELD, Jan., 1959. Anchorage DAILY TIMES, Dec. 28, 1971. Anchorage NEWS, Oct. 23, 1971, & April 2, 1972. THE NATIONAL INSIDER, Sept. 7, 1975.

NOTES

Two giant paw prints were found at Wandandian Creek, N.S.W., Australia several months ago. A prospector came upon the tracks which he described as five times the size of a dingo's (a wild dog), and that they distinctly showed claws. It was suggested that the prints were those of a panther that was reported in the nearby Cambewarra Range.

The Nova Scotia sea serpent carcass reported in the last issue has been suggested to be that of a Basking Shark by Dr. Paul Brodie, a marine Biologist. Dr. Brodie hastened to add that this was only an opionion based on the photos he had seen. Mr. Gregory Kanon of Nova Scotia has promised to keep us up to date on this.

The Yowie (the Australian version of Bigfoot) is continuing it's escapades. Mr. Alf Myers, a Forestry Commision employee reported immense, wide oval tracks with toes near Mt. Canobolas, N.S.W. One year ago a search was organized by local residents after several cattle had been found mauled.

And on Oct. 11 the Queanbeyan City Festival, Ltd., a charity organization, offered a reward of $100,000.00 for the capture of a Yowie.

The day after a Canberra radio station added another $100,000.00 to the pot thus making it a whopping $200,000.00!

The papers also mentioned the latest sighting, a Mr. Barry Costello reported seeing a big, dark-grey creature in the Goongong Dam area of N.S.W.

I hope to have more on the Yowie in a future issue. Credit for the above information; Mr. Micheal McLean.

A sea serpent was reported off Gloucester, Mass. last April. Captain Johnny Randazza described a 70 foot long, 3 humped creature with a head that passed his fishing boat on the Stallwagen Bank, 18 miles South of Gloucester. Chief biologist at the New England Aquarium and brother to one of the crew members on board the boat speculated that it might have been a Hump-backed Whale. Gloucester DAILY TIMES, April 30, 1976. Credit; Gary Mangiacopra.

QUESTIONAIRES

If anyone's doing investigative work and would like a copy of the questionaires I use you can send .15¢ for the marine questionaire and .50¢ for the sasquatch one, plus a stamped envelope.

Further sighting of animal resembling Tasmanian wolf

A Wingham man has reported further sightings of an animal closely resembling the Tasmanian wolf.

Mr. John Woolston, said the animal he had seen was similar to one reported to the 'Times' by Mr. Ian Mobbs, of Firefly near Krambach.

Mr. Woolston has twice seen a simlar animal, on both occasions while travelling to work along Wingham Road.

His latest sighting occurred late last week and he described the animal as resembling an "outsized bandicoot".

Mr. Woolston first saw the animal five weeks ago near Kennedy's Hill when he almost hit it with his car.

He described the first animal as being fawn in colour with dark brown stripes around the back.

"It had a longer nose than a dog and the tail was thick at the base but quickly becomes sharp," said Mr. Woolston.

He said the animal was 300 to 400 millimetres (12 to 16 inches) high and about 600 millimetres (24 inches) long.

Mr. Woolston would like to know if any other persons travelling along Wingham Road at the time also saw the animal.

His report follows the sighting by Mr. Mobbs of a similar animal closely resembling a Thyacine, the Tasmanian wolf which is reputed to be extinct.

Dungog CHRONICLE, Australia, Aug. 24, 1976. Credit; Jim Auburn

White River, "Monster" Makes Shows Twice Near Newport

Com. Appeal 7-11-37

Special to The Commercial Appeal

NEWPORT, Ark., July 10.—The monster of White River slipped a fast one over several hundred persons this morning and appeared above the water twice. The appearance of a large black object in the stream about 5 o'clock found three men, B. W. Bateman, Sam Larimore and A. Snooks in mid-stream in a small boat. Their description of its appearance coincides with that of other persons who have told of seeing the strange creature.

They said that small bubbles began to appear on the surface about 60 feet from their boat. The bubbles gained in size and then the monster appeared; no head; no tail, but its back was black and it measured about five or six feet wide and about 30 feet long. Its sudden appearance frightened the men and they quickly rowed their boat to the west bank of the river.

The object receded beneath the surface after remaining about a minute. Within three or four minutes the bubbles reappeared, and the huge black back rose out of the water. Again it submerged after remaining above the stream about a minute.

The men remained at a safe distance for about 15 or 20 minutes, they said, and regaining their courage, rowed their craft downstream from where it had been seen. They found a quantity of decayed leaves that had been stirred up from the bottom of the river. The animal did not appear again.

The huge audience which has spent several days along the bluff bank of the eddy had not arrived from the city, and failed to get the thrill of their lives. Most people have kept vigil on the west bank, the east bank near where the creature makes its appearance being inaccessable to traffic.

Arguments among Newport townspeople prevailed today, with some saying that the monster is a scow sunk in White River years ago and which is being moved about in circles by the eddy. Others contend that the leaves are forced up by air or gases.

Though many residents of Newport refuse to believe the monster is a living thing, they are loath to go out into the eddy in a boat to investigate. Only natives of the nearby plantation will venture into the the water, and they are few in number. They appear to have a sincere belief that something is in the river that causes the bubbles and appearance of huge masses of leaves and muddy water.

COMMERCIAL APPEAL, Little Rock, Ark., July 11, 1937.

Los Angeles TIMES, Sept. 5, 1976. Credit; Ron Dobbins.

60-FOOT SERPENT

Town Loses Its Monster but His Memory Remains

PERRY, N.Y. (UPI)—Loch Ness in Scotland may have its famed Nessie, but a sea serpent once created quite a stir in this rural western New York community.

Except the "Silver Lake sea serpent" turned out to be something quite different.

The monster ruled the lake for a time, coincidentally, when business was slow in this rural western New York village at the tip of the Silver Lake in Wyoming County. Townspeople wanted to attract tourists.

The creature was first sighted on the evening of July 13, 1855, by a group of "honest, temperate and industrious" men and boys who were fishing on the lake, according to a newspaper account.

The group, the report said, rowed their boat to shore and escaped with their lives as the 60-foot monster went after them. After the initial sighting, others began to report having seen something in the lake.

The serpent was described as between 60 and 100 feet long, shiny, dark green with yellow spots, flaming red eyes and a mouth and huge fins.

There were some reports that the serpent could rise 12 feet out of the water and move like a snake.

The "sightings" led to several "fishing" expeditions launched by local businessmen in an attempt to capture the monster. Thousands of persons from throughout the state flooded the Perry area to take a crack at capturing the elusive monster alive.

All efforts failed. The monster disappeared.

Then, two years later, on Dec. 19, 1857, the Walker House, a local hotel, burned down. Firemen who fought the blaze found the remains of the "serpent." The instigators soon confessed.

Truman S. Gillett and A. B. Walker, owner of the Walker House, said there had been a sea serpent all right. They had built it.

They said they constructed the serpent from waterproof canvas, paint and wire. Forced air through a hose connected to the "monster" caused it to surface and ropes were used to tow it to various corners of the lake's shoreline.

Perry still holds an annual week-long sea serpent festival during which time a sea serpent queen is crowned.

JOURNALS & ORGANIZATIONS

ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN, an excellent journal running about 8 pgs. and put out bi-monthly. $1.00 for four issues, sample copy .25¢. Contact Mr. David Fideler, 7098 Edinburgh, Lambertville, Mich. 48144.

A new and very active group has formed in New Jersey called VESTIGIA. At present they're putting out a very well produced monthly newsletter with the hopes of expanding it in the future. Membership is $10.00 a year. Write; VESTIGIA, R.D. 2, Brookwood Rd., Stanhope, N.J. 07874.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr. Frank Searle, of loch Ness fame has recently published a book entitled NESSIE. It details Mr. Searle's seven years of Loch watching. I have been infomred that because of the controversy over the book that it will not be reprinted by the publishers after the first batch has been sold. I have no news if it is to be printed here in the states so you might want to order it from Lionel Beer, Specialist Bookseller, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford St., London W1H 1HS. Cost is $1.10 U.S. and appropriate shipping, payment must be in International Money Order.

The Nov. ARGOSY has an interview with Mr. Searle and a selection of his photos, makes interesting reading.

REQUESTS

Mr. Joseph Zarynski is conducting an investigation into the Lake Champlain creature and would like any material relating to this. Write Mr. Joseph Zarynski, 95 Bryan St., Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866.

Mr. Gary Mangiacopra is conducting a research effort into sea serpent sightings off New England and would like information on sightings, preferably from small newspapers, etc., not N.Y. Times material. He would also like everyone to keep alert for material relating to his research on the Giant Octupus. Contact Mr. Gary Maniacopra, 7 Arlmont St., Milford, Ct. 06460.

Mr. David Fideler would like information pertaining to Michigan forteana, Write Mr. David Fideler, 7098 Edinburgh, Lambertville, Mich. 48144.

Tim Church
P.O. Box 932
Missoula, Mt. 59807

Gary Mangiacopra
7 Arlmont St.
Milford, Ct. 06460

a check here ( ) means postage/material is needed from you.

SHADOWS-3

Monthly-Dec. 1976 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

ILLINOIS SASQUATCHES 1974-1976

We've all heard of the Murphysboro monster and I won't cover old ground. But the Illinois sasquatch activity didn't end back then, sightings continue to the present day. So to pick up where the story ended-

On Jan. 26, 1974 the Elgin, Ill. Daily Courier-News carried a report that a huge, hairy and dirty white "thing", with a weird howl was seen by several persons of Aurora, Ill., just East of Chicago. Dead dogs with their throats ripped out had been found for three weeks previously. A few footprints, much larger than a man's and with longer toes were found in the vicinity.

Then in the Autumn of the same year stories concerning a seven foot tall, hairy brown creature started to filter out of Carol Stream, Ill., 40 miles Northwest of Chicago. Several people reported the creature in a cornfield and further described it as having glowing red eyes and a grey tipped head. Prints 13 and 14½ inches long were uncovered.

And of more recent vintage are the July, 1976 reports from Dixon, Ill. The stories started when two 17 inch footprints were found at the edge of the Rock River, near the heavily timbered Lowell Park. The tracks were said to have flatish feet, with five toes of equal length and a 8 3/4 inch width at the ball. Stride was measured at 40 inches. A fisherman reported "park benches were thrown around and big footprints all around them." Dwyane Norvell, a member of the North American Wildlife Research Association stated that he had reservations about the tracks. He was further quoted as saying- "multiple footprints are very rare." "The only time they'll leave a footprint is where they have no alternative." He also made the puzzling comment that sightings had been reported along Mississippi but none in Illinois so far! Does he not know of Loren Coleman's investigations or of the Murphysboro scare? It was in all the papers.

Editor's Note:

The response to SHADOWS so far has been encouraging. However I regret to say that only about 30% of the people on the mailing list are really contributing information, and another 10-20% have sent in only stamps. That leaves about 40% which have failed to respond at all. This issue, therefore will be the last "free-be". If you wish to continue receiving SHADOWS and have not yet sent in anything you'd best get off a letter soon. I understand some of you are busier than I am or somewhat disrupted and I will try to make allowances for this.

I also wish to apologize to any of you whom I have been late in answering. My tardiness and short replies are due to final exams and deadlines at work.

About all for now, have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

A limited number of back issues of SHADOWS 1 & 2 are available for two .13¢ stamps each.

NOTES

A "mystery" shark was hauled up from a 3,000 foot depth by Navy crewmen early in November.

It was described as 12 feet in length, 1,500 pounds and has a mouth that glows in the dark! (bioluminescent plankton?). Taken to the Waikiki Aquarium in Hawaii (it was caught off Hawaii) biologists said it was totally new to them. Director John McCosker added that it's a "big,flabby shark with a giant mouth and tiny little teeth."

The Mail Star, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Nov. 20, 1976. Credit: Gregory Kanon.

From Port Douglas, B.C. comes another report of a Nessie type haunting Harrison Lake, 80 miles East of Vancouver. Indians living nearby say that it can change shape, from a horse to a snake, at will. Two boaters were reported to have been badly shaken when a large object rushed out of the water and back in near their boat. The lake is said to be 800 to 1,000 feet deep with a few areas where bottom was not touched at 3,500 feet.

The Vancouver, B.C. Province, Oct. 18, 1976.

St. Croix, Wisconsin is the scene of the latest Bigfoot hoax. On Oct. 8 a dozen witnesses were reported to have seen a 7-8 foot tall creature while out spotlighting for deer. The next day, accompanied by others, the area was searched and several tracks of 19 by 9 inches were found. Two weeks later four of the teenage witnesses came forward and said the whole thing was faked. They had cut two large feet from wooden planks and then tied them to the bottoms of one of their boots. The chosen "monster" then donned an inside out snowmobilers outfit and an ape mask. Not very imaginative if you ask me. They then lead two unsuspecting friends to the area and presto!, a monster legend is born. UPI picked it up and mention of it was mention of it was made on NBC's Today Show.

St. Paul, Mn. Pioneer Press, Oct. 26, 1976. Credit: Mark Hall.
The Standard Press, St. Croix, Wis., Oct. 14 and 28, 1976.
Credit: Lou Farish, Tom Adams and others.

Ocheyedan, Iowa is having a rash of Bigfoot reports. Dan Radunz, 13, was riding with the family along the Ocheyedan River when he saw a 6 foot tall, black creature standing on the river bank. It had an oval shaped head and appeared to be sipping water scooped up in it's hands. The next morning Mrs. Radunz and two friends returned to the site and found 14 inch footprints spaced 6 feet apart.

Osceloa County Tribune, Aug. 26, 1976. Credit: John Marshall, Lou Farish, Mark Hall, Tom Adams, Rod Dyke.

Our local UFO expert Terry Bishop tells us that "yowies", the huge hairy monsters which have been reported in the Mudgee district, are very active in the same area of England as UFO's.

There they are called "big foot," as they leave an imprint thought to belong to the occupant of an UFO.

The shape of their feet is different to normal human beings, and the theory is that they drop down to earth every now and then to see what the earthmen are up to.

Mr. Bishop can tell you lots more about "yowies" and can be contacted at 62-7795, or P.O. Box 332, Orange.

Central Western Daily,
Orange, N.S.W, Australia, May.8, 1975. Credit: Jim Auburn

Trapper Leaves; Killings Unsolved

10-7-76 A, 1: 6 ARIZONA DAILY STAR (Tucson)

The mystery animal blamed in the deaths of more than 20 dogs on the city's northwest side may be a jaguar, a mountain lion, a leopard — or a great dane, according to a federal wild animal trapper.

Jim Lackey, a trapper for the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, left Tucson yesterday after a two-day search of the Canada del Oro wash and parts of the Catalina Mountains.

He took his horses and assistant with him and left behind another theory in the killings.

"He found some big tracks and trailed two great danes," said Robert Hembrode of the state Game and Fish Dept.

Hembrode said he would contact the owner of the dogs and ask that they be locked up for a while, but he is not convinced that the dogs are the culprits.

Credit: Ron Dobbins

Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolfman?

Jan. 28, 1974 ARIZONA DAILY STAR (Tucson), p.A, 4: 9

The Big Bad Wolf is in danger of becoming extinct.

For the past few days, a man wearing a wolf's head has been cavorting around North Alvernon Way, on Skyline and near North Swan Road, scaring the wits out of some and angering others.

Sheriff's deputies and police officers report many information calls, describing the critter as near six feet tall, muscular and "an eerie thing."

The Wolfman showed up yesterday at an El Con ice cream parlor, frightening customers as he strolled into the parlor, then out again.

The police don't think that was very funny.

And, officers say, bands of teenage boys armed with rifles are out patrolling the Catalina Foothills.

The kids say they'll shoot if they see the prankster.

He might cry "Wolf" once too often.

Credit: Ron Dobbins

VAMPIRES REPORTED IN OAZACA, MEX.

Special Cable to The New York Times.

Mexico City, Feb. 17--Reports from the State of Oaxaca, reading like fables, tell of winged vampires making savage attacks on inhabitants. It is said a number of children have died from the attacks and that cattle are now hidden in huts. The village of Tiltepec has asked Federal aid aganist the pest.

New York Times, Feb. 18, 1925.
Credit: Ron Dobbins.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FATE, Dec., 1976 has an excellent article by Jerome Clark concerning the creature sightings in Oklahoma in 1974 and 1975.

I have ordered 5 copies of NESSIE by Frank Searle and 5 copies of LOCH NESS AND ITS MONSTER by J.A. Carruth from England. These are for sale, one each per customer, on a first come-first serve basis. Prices are .60¢ for the Carruth booklet (24 pgs.) and $1.35 for the Searle book, this includes the postal charges from England and from me to you. Do not send money, please notify me of your desire and I will ship them out to you with a bill.

I have a copy of a booklet entitled STORSJOODJURET by Knut Svedjeland, it concerns Swedish lake monsters, unfortunately it's in Swedish! Does anyone have an English translation? I would be more than willing to pay for xeroxing and postage.

Bill Corliss has added another volume to his excellent fortean sourcebook library. The latest is Strange Minds, a sourcebook of unusual mental phenomena. Other titles include Strange Phenomena, vol. I&II; Strange Life; Strange Artifacts, vol. I&II; Strange Planet; and Strange Universe. All are $7.95 (discount if you order 4 or more), from William R. Corliss, The Sourcebook Project, Box 107, Glen Arm, Md. 21057.

For those of you who receive Publishers Central Bureau's discount book catalog you might look on page 9 of their latest catalog. Adventure in Belize by Robert Staughan is on sale. His alleged sea serpent photos are supposed to be in this book. See SHADOWS-1 for details of his story.

For those of you who don't receive PCB's catalog and would like to drop them a note at Publishers Central Bureau, Dept. 456, 1 Champion Ave. Avenel, N.J. 07131. Another similar outfit is Edward R. Hamilton, Bookseller, 30 Chambers Road, Danbury Ct. 06810. Many excellent books on forteana and other subjects can be had for half their retail price.

Tim Church
P.O. Box 932
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Gary Mangiacopra
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Milford, Ct. 06460

SHADOWS-4

Monthly-Jan. 1977 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

THE SANTER: NORTH CAROLINA'S OWN MYSTERY CAT?

by Angelo Capparella III

During the 1890's two newspapers in the western piedmont of North Carolina, the Chronicle (Wilkesboro weekly) and the Statesville Landmark (Statesville weekly), every so often wrote that a creature called the Santer was "terrorizing" one of the nearby communities. Little in the way of detail is ever given other than the statement that the Santer is in such and such a place "carrying on it's work of devestation." However, when described it is usually said to have the appearance of a large cat and to have a particular fondness for cat and dog meat. Was this Santer a forerunner of today's mystery cat?*

According to a staff member of the present day Statesville Landmark, the Santer first appeared in the Aug. 28, 1890 issue of that paper (though this source does not state if it's name was coined then). Apparently this was just a brief mention, but the next issue, Sept. 4, 1890, is full of details and even includes a drawing of the Santer (whose name was in use by then). Though this writer has been unable to examine this issue or obtain a copy of same, the Sept. 11, 1890 issue of the Carolina Watchman (Salisbury weekly) summarizes as follows:

"The Landmark last week presented to it's readers a likeness of the physical contour of the most remarkable beast, said to be at large in the country adjacent to Statesville." (Iredell Co.) *"Even it's likeness is dreadful to behold. The brute is described as having abnormal capacity for food, and has a weakness for pigs, cow, sheep, and negro children."* (Note; In the Chronicle it's weakness for cats and dogs is usually emphasized.) *"This strange animal is called locally by several names, none of which, perhaps excepting 'Santer', conveys much meaning to the earnest reader. 'Santer' has a mysterious meandering indefinite significance which is quite appalling..."*

The Watchman appears to treat the Landmark's article in a tongue in cheek fashion, their own article continues with a rather absurd theroy of it's orgin. The Watchman apparently recognizes the Landmark's article to be a gag and is going along with it. Commenting on the Landmarks' article the staff member mentioned above states that "the Santer was obviously a brain child of J.P. Caldwell" who was editor at the time. There are two traditions as to why Caldwell invented the Santer. One is that the news was dull and the other is that local blacks were spending too much time at the saloon and needed to be taught a lesson by scaring them. Whatever the reason it seems that the name Santer was invented to describe a creature made up by Mr. Caldwell, though perhaps based on genuine reports of some strange animal.

If the Santer had only been mentioned a few times after this in obviously tongue in cheek fashion then there would be no doubt that it was all a journalistic hoax. But it so happens that the Santer appears in the Landmark and Chronicle thoughout the 1890's, sometimes in a joking manner but more often (in the Chronicle at least) in a largely serious manner. For this reason we should not be too hasty in relegating all Santer reports to fabrication.

Supporting our theroy that the Santer as it appeared in the Sept. 4 issue of the Landmark was a hoax, but that later sightings of unusual creatures were often called by the name Santer, is the following article

which appeared in the Oct. 9, 1890 issue of the Watchman. Here a clear distinction is made between the Landmark's Santer and a strange creature which was apparently causing the people of the area some consternation. Note the portion we have underlined.

"What is it?"

Possum hunters are scarce in the Second Creek neighborhood just now and the cause of the scarcity is a varmint of some kind loose in the woods.

Now this varmint is not fake like the Santer of the Statesville Landmark, but a regular terrorizing beast, with a chain around it's neck, and which has a failing for cattle of the bull yearling variety and like the Santer occasionally takes a negro baby between meals.

The first time this animal was heard of in this county was about two weeks ago. Parties who were obliged to keep late hours...reported that they heard unearthly noises which they could not describe but which were enough to keep them in the house nights after they had once heard it.

About ten days ago while out possum hunting Abe Harbin (colonel) heard it ahead of him aways and his dogs came running back with their tails between their legs. Abe... treed it in a poplar and 'shun' it's eyes, which were nearly two feet apart...hearing it growl, he left with his dogs a hundred yards ahead of him.

...On last Friday Mr. Adam Lentz saw it but it was only a glimpse like, but the glimpse was enough to satisfy him that it was not quite as big as a cow.

On Monday night it visited the houses of two widow ladies. At one of them, Mrs. Cozarts, it reared up aganist the door and growled. Mrs. Cozart screamed loud enough to wake up the wife of a neighbor who lived close by who went to the door to see what was the matter, as she opened the door the varmint sprang at her but failed to get it's claws in her, the husband jumped up and got his pistol but when he got to the door the animal was out of sight, but he says he heard the chains.

Opinions differ as to what it looks like...No one has missed any cattle yet...

Unfortunately, no further mention is made of this creature in the following weeks issue; perhaps it just left the area as mysteriously as it arrived. In any event, the sightings of the creature are treated in all seriousness by the Watchman.

Additional evidence that Santer reports were not hoaxes are the reports themselves. Consider the following from the Chronicle:

May 5, 1897

The Santer Still Eating Cats

The Santer, or whatever it is, is still making inroads upon the cat population about Roaring River. We give an account of it's ravages some time ago. It seems to live on cats, and there is not cat in that section that can feel safe unless well housed up. We are informed that last year when the circus exhibited at Elkin a Lynx escaped, and it is supposed that the cat-eating Santer is that Lynx. A Lynx is akin to the wild cat and loves cat meat.

June 9, 1897

The Santer Caught

Elkin Times-The strange varmint which has been terrorizing the people of 'Big Elkin' was captured last week under a house on Dr. Tyre York's place above Traphill. No one seems to know what it is. It resembled a large shepard dog. It feasted on cats and dogs while it was in this life and it is a pity it was killed as it might have rid the county of several worthless

But rumor says there is another one loose in the same section.

Oct. 20, 1897

Under column: Piney Grove Items

The Santer, cat catcher, cat eater, or grave robber or whatever you wish to call it has been seen and heard by several people in this community recently. Charlie Smoot saw it the other night near Johnson Caudill's. He said it was striped from the end of it's nose to the end of it's tail. It was sitting near the side of the road but did not show any harm.

Anyone interested in contacting Mr. Capparella should write him at 602 W. Main St., Carrboro, N.C. 79409

May 31, 1899

Under column: Local Matters

The Santer has made it's appearance again. It went to Mr. Smoak's Saturday night and estroyed twelve nice chickens. Mrs. Smoak got a glimpse of it as the dog ran it away, and it had a grey appearance and was between the size of a cat and a dog. It tears chickens all to pieces and don't take much time to do it, either.

Part II of this article will appear in the next issue of Shadows.

Big Cats Maul Harris Cattle

HOUSTON (UPI) — Two big cats, one possibly an escaped pet cougar, mauled more than a dozen cattle in north Harris County during the weekend, prompting an intensive hunt.

Deputy Sheriff H.E. Willis said Monday two different sets of cougar tracks were found near where four cows were killed and 10 others mauled.

"Everybody out there is scared they will be attacked themselves," he said.

Willis said it is doubtful the animals would attack humans. The cats have not eaten the four cattle they killed.

Susan Smallwood, owner of a 14-month-old cougar that escaped two months ago, said one of the cats may be hers. She has offered a $175 reward for the escaped pet dead or alive.

"I want the officers to kill him," she said. "I'd rather have him dead than to kill a kid."

Sherman, Tx. DEMOCRAT, Jan. 5, 1977. Tom Adams.

Big Bird Is Still Alive, Able to Fly

"The Big Bird" was alive, able to fly and to forage as late as Saturday, when it was seen in an oats and rye 20-acre open field near Bethel.

Mrs. O. M. (Dolois) Moore, secretary employed at the T.G.&Y. Family Center in Palestine Plaza, says she was looking out a window at her home three-quarter miles north of the Cayuga School at Bethel, when she saw the huge bird in the open field.

"It was very large. Like a big crane seen through a magnifying glass," Mrs. Moore related Tuesday afternoon.

"The bird was about 150 yards away from me. Our big Brahman bull was trying to get close to the bird. Every time he did, the bird took wing and flew off a short distance, then resumed feeding in our oats and rye pasture."

The bird obviously had a wing injury which caused it to make only short flights at a time, Mrs. Moore said.

It may have been winged Dec. 8 by a shot fired from the home place of John S. Carroll, Jr., swine breeder, about three miles east of Montalba.

Bethel is perhaps 15 miles northwest of the Carroll place.

Mrs. Moore said her two children, Dave, 17, and Michele, 12 are "out looking for the bird. They've been looking for it two days now. If they find it, they will call George Veteto." Veteto is manager of the Engeling Wildlife Management Area south of Bethel.

The Moore pasture, where Mrs. Moore says she saw the bird feeding, adjoins the 11,000-acre state game preserve. Biologists on the Engeling staff would conceivably be able to capture the bird and determine its variety.

It could be a rare freak or a throwback to the extinct Dodo species which vanished in the 16th Century from a remote island paradise.

Mrs. Moore said she was alone when she saw the bird and had to leave for Palestine. "I didn't think to call Mr. Veteto until I was halfway to town," she related.

Some believe the strange bird — which now has been seen and described similarly by at least four persons over a period of several weeks — is an extremely large member of the stork family perhaps grown out of all normal proportionsr through a change in the genes.(genes.

A one-time University of Texas biologist won the Nobel Science Prize about 1928 by discovering that radioactivity induced by exposure to X-rays caused mutations in the genes of fruit flies, and could do the same with reproductive organs of other forms of life, from grains to animals of all sorts.

Mrs. Moore saw the Big Bird as bluish gray in color, with a very long neck and legs.

Palestine, Tx. HERALD PRESS , Dec. 22, 1976 Tom Adams.

From Mr. Joesph Zarzynski of the Bierman, Zarzynski Lake Champlain Monster Expediton comes the following note on some of the personalities that have been involved in the search for 'Champ'.

In 1609, Samuel de Champlain reported a sighting of a 20 foot serpentine creature made by his party in the lake that was to be later named after him. From that point forward the years have been marked by frequent sightings of very large fish or monstrous creatures sighted in Lake Champlain. One such series of sightings around Whitehall, N.Y. was to lead to popularizing the fame His Majesty the Great Lake Champlain Sea Serpent.

In 1873, P.T.Barnum of circus fame was to offer $50,000 for the hide of the sea serpent. According to the Whitehall Times (9/26/1873) the hide was to be "sent to the State hall in a copper boiler." $50,000 was surely a small fee to pay for such a fine specimen to add to his circus show.

Whitehall, N.Y. again became the seen of another famous American celebrity and his brief fling with the talk of the day-the Lake Champlain Sea Serpent. Thomas Nast, the famous cartoonist lectured in Whitehall on Oct. 30, 1873. Nast drew the "varmint" in a tongue in cheek style during his lecture. It seemed that the sea serpent was to become glorified by this artist's skill.

Now whether or not Barnum and Nast were sincere or jocular in their brief contact with the legend of the Lake Champlain Sea Serpents is a question that is today unknown. However, no year in the history of the sea serpent can be as prestigious as 1873. Today the reality of the legend of the Lake Champlain Sea Serpent must be investigated. Some recent sightings of this sea serpent suggest the legend of the Lake Champlain Sea Serpent is more factual than some circus like cartoon.

Mr. Zarzynski and Bierman are continuing their investigations and hope to publish a preliminary report on their findings, Mr. Zarzynski has promised to keep us informed on the progress of the report.

Tim Church
P.O. Box 932
Missoula, Mt. 59807

a check here ( ) means postage is needed from you.

SHADOWS-5

Monthly-Feb. 1977 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

THE SANTER: NORTH CAROLINA'S OWN MYSTERY CAT?

by Angelo Capparella III

Part II

As can be seen from the previous reports details are lacking, but even so it seems obvious that some strange creature was being seen in the area. Just what it was is another question which will be considered shortly.

In gathering reports of the Santer this writer has primarily relied on the Wilkesboro Chronicle. It is the only newspaper in Wiles county which still has issues available for the 1890's and fortunately carried Santer reports with some semblance of regularity. Most of the reports occurred in 1897, followed by 1899. The rest of the 1890's had from three to no reports for each year.

The only other newspaper which appears to have carried somewhat regular reports was the Statesville Landmark, which covers Iredell county. The only copies in existence are found at the Landmark's office which has remained inaccessible to this writer. However, the Landmark staff member mentioned earlier states that most reports occurred in the early 1890's and then gradually petered out though there was a revival of interest in 1896.

At first sight it would appear that Iredell and Wilkes counties were the hangout of the Santer, judging from the reports in the Chronicle and Landmark. This, however, may well be a false impression. It should be remembered that many papers of these two counties and surrounding counties have little or no issues still in existence. Therefore, any Santer report from out of Wilkes and Iredell may have been lost to the past. But until contrary information is uncovered, we can consider Wilkes and Iredell to be the Santer's main haunt.

Having examined some of the Santer reports it is now time to ask just what was the Santer? Five possible explanations are suggested:

1) The Santer reports (including those reports in which the creature is just referred to as a varmint) are simply a journalistic hoax.
2) The Santer reports are simply misidentifications of familar animals such as wild dogs, wildcats, bears, etc.
3) The Santer reports are actually reports of cougars (also called panthers, catamounts, etc.)
4) The Santer reports are a mixture of 1,2, and 3.
5) The Santer reports are reports of a genuine "mystery cat", i.e. a creature resembling a cat which is not an animal in the conventional sense.

It is very unlikely that all Santer reports are purely fabrications for reasons discussed earlier. The very nature of the reports (they are presented in a serious manner) as well as their persistence over many years does not support the fabrication explanation.

As to the reports being misidentifications of known animals, it it indeed possible that a few are but it's doubtful that all are. For one thing, whenever a bear or mad dog, for example, does "terrorize" a communtiy it is designated as such. No aura of mystery surrounds these animals. Also, from the descriptions we have of the appearance and behavior of the Santer it seems most unlikely that some known animal could have been the culprit.

Explanation 3 is perhaps the

most difficult to evaluate. It is almost impossible to know when the panther became extinct in N.C., assuming it ever did. Certainly by this time the panther was rare, having been pushed back into less populated areas. The average resident of Wilkes and Iredell county were probably unfamilar with the creature; even in known cougar country sightings of the elusive cat are rare. Perhaps a few panthers remained in the area and, as the local residents were unfamilar with them, any sighting was interpreted as being the Santer which had conveniently been invented by J.P. Caldwell earlier. Evidence aganist this explanation consists primarily of the fact that the Santer behaved much differently from panthers. Where the cougar (panther) is a shy, elusive beast who has learned to steer clear of man, the Santer displays the opposite behavior and seems to have little fear of man. Consider the following report from the Chronicle.

March 17, 1897

The Santer at Roaring River

The 'Santer' has made it's appearance at Roaring River. It has assumed the character of a 'cat eater'. It has the appearance of a cat, but is larger. For the last two weeks it has been feasting upon cats about the Roaring River. It came into Esq. Reeve's porch about dusk a few eventings ago and carried away a fine cat. They saw it, but it did it's work so quick that they could not prevent it. Another evening it went to Lee Pardue's where the children were playing on the porch and carried off another fine cat. All the cats in that neighborhood are passing away...

As for the claim that the locals did not know the difference between a cougar and the Santer consider this report from the Chronicle.

Feb. 2, 1893

Under column: Notes from Summit

John and H.L. Beshers caught the largest catamount the 14th ever seen in this section in 25 years. It killed a sheep at F.M. Bakers on Thursday night, and had killed several pigs, lambs and sheep before that. He is 4 feet and 6 inches long and about the size of a large hound dog...

Here the catamount (panther) is identified as such and there is no attempt to draft it as the explanation for prior Santer reports. Though it would be premature to rule out explanation 3 as unlikely, it would also be hasty to accept it as valid.

Explanation 4 is likely only so long as there are no Santer reports which cannot be satisfactorily explained by either 1,2, or 3. However this writer contends this to be the case, that most of the Santer repdorts cannot be explained by any of these explanations for reasons discussed earlier thoughout this article.

If explanations 1 through 4 are not satisfactory then we seem to be left with an explanation which is not really an explanation but a recognition that the Santer reports represent a mystery, i.e. that the Santer is a mystery cat. There are similarities between Santer reports and more recent mystery cat reports. (see references at the end of this article.) Those similarities being in appearance (a large cat) and behavior (terrorizing communities, identity unknown). Whether in fact the Santer can be placed in the category of mystery cats awaits more evidence as we cannot at present confidently state that explanations 2 and 3 are very unlikely, only that they are unsatisfactory.

In closing, it is fitting to include a report indicating that the Santer was not a creature destined for oblivion before the beginning of the 20th century. For in 1934 the Santer, or it's offspring

once again made it's appearance according to the Statesville Landmark of May 28, 1934.

From the Mooresville News: There is considerable excitment around here about the ferocious wild animal roaming around Shinnville and other places in South Iredell. Most people who lived here about 40 or more years ago are satisfied that this is none other but an offspring of that same old Iredell County Santer that terrorizied the natives around Statesville and Amity Hill, devouring chickens, pigs, calves, and carrying off a few colored children that never were found.

*An excellent source of mystery cat reports is: "On the Trail of Pumas, Panthers and ULA's", (Part 1 &2) by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman, FATE magazine, June and July 1972.

An excellent work on the panther which discusses sightings of this creature in eastern Canada and U.S., is: The Eastern Panther by Bruce S. Wright, Clarke, Irwin and Co., Ltd., Toronto, Canada, 1972.

'Big Foot' Eludes Team On Overnight Campout

Springfield, Mass MORNING UNION, Dec 31, 1976

By MARY MIGLIORE
Union Staff

AGAWAM—"Big Foot" remained at large Thursday in a wooded area off Moore street, but a New York investigator says the 27-inch footprints left by the creature could be authentic.

"The prints look good—but "Big Foot" tracks are a dime a dozen...we really need to see him," said Lee Frank, who reportedly travels all over the United States investigating sightings of the legendary animal.

Frank and other trackers spent Wednesday night camping in zero temperatures beside the footprints in the snow, but failed to spot a 7 to 12-foot monster on the prowl by the Westfield River.

"Big Foot" investigators also planned to spend Thursday camping in the woods in hopes of spotting the big fellow.

"Whatever the tracks are, they merit further investigation," Frank said, adding that it is impossible to determine at this point how the tracks were made.

Agawam Police have called off their "Big Foot" team for the time being, but dozens of interested residents are continuing to visit the site of the huge tracks near Robinson State Park.

Marianne Cascio of Agawam, who asked Frank to conduct an investigation at the site, said she believes the tracks are authentic and belong to a 1,500-pound giant.

But no fresh tracks have been spotted since the first prints were discovered Monday evening, and she said the creature may have left the area.

Police, who say this is their first investigation into reports of a monster on the loose, still maintain they have no idea whether the five-toed tracks are that of a legendary ape-like mammal or the work of a prankster.

Palestine, TX., HERALD PRESS, Dec. 22, 1976.
Tom Adams.

12A • ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Thursday, Jan. 20, 1977

'Hairy Creature' Is Being Sought

NATCHEZ, Miss. (AP) — The police are investigating reports of "a huge, hairy creature" that reportedly was sighted by several Natchez residents.

Those who reported the sighting to the police Monday night said the "almost human" creature growled at a dog and fled when a patrol car approached.

The police said they found large footprints, broken tree limbs and other evidence that something was in the area.

Three occupants of one house said they looked out and saw "a huge, hairy creature, well over six feet tall, and dark, barefoot and naked." They said the creature walked with a limp.

Credit: Lou Farish

Credit: George Early

'Big Bird' Reported Seen

A woman who failed to identify herself called the Herald-Press and said she saw "The Big Bird" in the vicinity of Catfish Creek on U.S. 287 this morning.

The caller promised to call back and tell Ernest Jones about her sighting of the bird. She had failed to call back up to noon.

Catfish Creek at the highway bridge is within three miles south from the farm home of Mrs. Dolois Moore, who said she saw the big bird Saturday feeding in an oats and rye field at her home.

Mrs. Moore, informed of the latest reported sighting, said the bird she saw was headed south the last time she saw it. Her two children have since been searching but failed to find any trace of the bird. Land in the Engeling Wildlife Management Area intervenes between the Moore place and the Catfish Creek bridge.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Warren Smith has come out with another book, probably of dubious value: Secret Orgins of Bigfoot, Zebra books, sorry don't have a price.

Technology Review, Dec. 1976 has another Loch Ness article in it; "Sonar Serendipity in Loch Ness".

Argosy, Dec./Jan., 1977 has an article by T. Jeff Williams entitled "Bigfoot: Man, Beast or Myth?". As you can probably guess it's a rehash of Bryne material.

Another monster book, this one by John Lee & Barbara Moore, called Monster Among Us. From Pyramid Books, 9 Garden ST., Moonachie, N.J. 07074. I don't have a price on this one either.

NOTES

From Agawan, Mass. comes another flurry of Bigfoot reports. It seems that in late Dec. 27 inch! tracks were found in a wooded section near town. The police were taking a skeptical attitude as usual. One Lee Frank of New York and a Bigfoot investigator is taking the tracks seriously. No other tracks or any sightings have been reported since the first incident.

Well I recieved my copy of Adventure in Belize by Robert Straughan with the alleged sea serpent photos in it. They are, as are all monster photos fuzzy and out of focus. The 'sea serpent' remains me quite a bit of the Loch Ness picture taken in the sixties. Below is my rendering, another Picasso I'm not!

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a check here ( ) means postage is needed from you.

SHADOWS-6

Monthly-March 1977 newsletter of "cryptozoology"

A COMPENDIUM OF RIVER SERPENTS

While reports of Sea and Lake serpents are hogging all the attention some pretty odd things have been thrashing about in our rivers and for a very long time. The following are a few of the more interesting reports.

In Jan. of 1878 a Produce boat operating on the Mississippi River, near Natchez had the misfortune of disturbing a 65 foot long serpent with a bull dog head and a pelican like bill. It attacked one of the towed barges and left a piece of it's bill embedded in the wood. It was later dug out and said to look like ivory. This attack understandably made it harder to recuit crewmen for subsequent jobs.

We then skip to Rosalind, Alberta-1934. A 30 foot creature, the diameter of a stovepipe started making appearances in the Battle River. After being shot at and getting the attention of the New York Times it too faded.

Lyons Falls, N.Y., June 7, 1951. Perturbed fishermen were contemplating how best to rid the nearby Black River of it's new(?) resdient. It seems a 15 foot, round creature was seen cruising the river by Wash Mellick, a mill worker. This brought back memories of similar reports of 10 years earlier. Again after a brief press life the Black River monster died a literary death.

On to my favorite report, from the Missouri River. In 1970 a fisherman was enjoying a float down the river between Fort Benton and Lewistown, Mont., when a black, 6-8 foot creature rudely slammed into his boat. Grabbing a movie camera he filmed the "fish" as it continued upstream. This one has intrigued me since I read of it in an article by Loren Coleman and Jerome Clark. The man's name was given and I believe I have located the man. Unfortunately he has chosen to be unco-operative. I have not found the incident reported in the papers, but than I have yet to make a very thorough search. I did learn that there is an annual float trip held in July, so that part checks out. I'm inclined to think it was probably either a sturgeon or a paddlefish, but than that's only a guess.

Down in Florida a series of curious sightings started in April of 1975. A 30 foot creature was reported in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. Two housewives fishing from a dock spied the creature among the pilings. "It came partially out of the water between the two pilings and then sank back down into the water. I just kept saying to myself I can't believe it!" It was described as about 30 feet long and brownish-grey in color. Several similar sightings were reported. A manatee was suggested but subsequently rejected because they only grow to 15 feet. Dr. Daniel Odell, Miama University stated the possibility of it being a whale. He sited reports of a whale seen in an Everglades river, and one who swam up the Rhine River into Germany! Undoubtedly trying to escape less

than friendly contacts with whalers.

Then in June "Pinky" as it was disrespectfully named popped up in the St. John's River. A family out trying their new boat sighted him (her?). "His head was about the size, or maybe larger, than a human head." "He turned his head like you and I. He had little horns-well they weren't very little-like a snail with little knobs on the end. He looked like a skeleton. He was real jagged looking. On the side of his head were flaps, I guess some kind of gills, hanging down. About three feet of his neck was out of the water. His mouth was turned down at the edges and he had big, dark, slanted eyes. And he was pink. Sort of the color of boiled shrimp."

Another witness said, "It was the ugliest thing I ever saw in my life."

The Florida Marine Patrol reported it had recieved word of similar sightings and suspected a sea sturgeon. One woman said she had seen an identical creature 20 years before.

And most recently in Nov. of last year "Pinky" or an imposter was again reported. A woman fishing at Chickepit Bay found she had hooked more than she wanted. Trying to free her line from what she thought was a snag, she instead disturbed a 6-8 foot long creature with a round, whitish head, a dark green body and ridges on it's back. Another witness was quoted as saying, "It looked like a pre-historic animal." He added further details; very high ridges, basketball like head, and alligator like tail. And he was adamant that it was not a sturgeon, manatee, or otter. A marine iguana was suggested but after looking at slides it was decided it wasn't one of those either.

Room does not allow more reports but rivers seem to contain their share of "creepies."

"America's Lake Monsters", Beyond Reality, March/April 1975.
Evening Times-Globe, Saint John, N.B., June 7, 1951.
Edmonton, Al. Journal, June 9, 1934
Arkansas Gazette, June 12, 1975
Stuart, Flo. News, May 8, 1975
Flo. Times-Union, Nov. 23, 1976.

BOOK REVIEW

Gaal, Arlene B., 1976. Beneath the depths.
Valley Review Publishing Co. Ltd., Kelowna, B.C., 122pp. $4.25

Of the unidentified denizens of North American lakes, only the lake Okanagan "monster", Ogopogo, has a pedigree comparable to that of it's world renowned Scottish cousin. This little book tells the Ogopogo story, from Indian legends to recent sightings.

The creature which emerges from a synthesis of the various observations has a heavy snake's body, black to dark green in color, a head resembling that of a horse, or a goat, adorned by an ample beard. This description is strongly reminiscent of many of the sea-monsters reported in the coastal waters of British Columbia. One sighting mentions the simultaneous presence of three of the creatures, an encouraging sign to those who would like to believe that a breeding population of Ogopogos maintains itself in lake Okanagan.

The author's speculations regarding the origin of Ogopogo lean heavily towards the prehistoric reptile hypothesis. In the opinion of this reviewer, the fact that lake Okanagan was still glaciated only 10,000 years ago, together with the resemblence between Ogopogo

and some of it's marine cousins in the nearby Pacific waters, militates towards a marine origin, the creature having somehow found it's way towards interior bodies of water after the latest glaciation.

The book contains a number of reproductions of newspaper clippings pertaining to some of the sightings; it is unfortunate that these are not dated. Nevertheless, this work provides a useful review of the subject and may stimulate further and better observations. Let us not forget that there is still an unclaimed prize of $5000, offered by the Canadian Tourist Association in 1969, for a convincing photograph of Ogopogo.

Paul H. LeBlond, Vancouver, 9 Jan. 1977

Nepal Tips on Meeting Yeti End with Caution — Don't Laugh

Credit: Kathy Conlon

KATMANDU, Nepal (UPI) — Nepalese have some tips for the American bicentennial expedition ascending Mt. Everest in the event they happen to meet the Yeti.

A male Yeti, also known as the abominable snowman, is lazy. Nepalese say it prefers handouts to hunting on its own.

Don't try to photograph the yeti, especially with a flash. They say it prefers privacy and especially detests cameras. Best ignore it.

As for the females, Nepalese say they are more trouble. Legend has it the female is easily jealous and extremely sharp tempered. Their advice is to run away. Be sure to run down the mountain and never up, even if you happen to be above her. This, they say, is because the female has difficulty running downhill.

Those who know have another bit of advice. They say to avoid laughing at such tips. Yetis are regarded as the palanquin bearers of Lord Shiva, the Hindu lord of the universe who makes his home in Everest.

The 12-member American expedition, as it inched its way to the summit of the world's tallest peak, visited the Thyangboche Buddhist monastery to view the purported scalp of the only yeti said to have been caught. The monastery, located below the base camp, permits Everest climbers to view this relic. No one can say if it is really the scalp of a yeti but no one has said it is not. Just seeing it, however, is said to be a good omen.

When it comes to being elusive, the Yeti is as bad as the Loch Ness monster. Nepalese do not say they have actually seen one. But they invariably say they know of someone who knows of someone who has encountered the shaggy giant with arms that reach to his feet and ears like those of a lion.

Although he does not pretend to have seen one, Norman G. Dyhrenfurth, the Swiss-American mountain climber who pioneered the route to Everest in 1952, believes the Yeti exists. So do some other noted climbers.

Dyhrenfurth, in one of his expeditions to Everest, sighted droppings which, after analysis, were found to belong to no known animals. It is Dyhrenfurth's opinion that Yetis like to live in extremely cold climate and seldom come to areas which humans inhabit.

At any rate, the Nepalese are on record with their advice on how to act upon meeting the elusive Yeti.

APTOS GAZETTE SAT. OCT. 19

Deer-carrying 'snowman' seen

Rapid City, S.D. Journal Nov. 16, 1973

Two persons living near Johnson Siding and Highway 44 have reported seeing a bear or eight foot tall "snowman" in that area recently.

Pennington County sheriff's officers said the complainants reported the creature had animal-like features, long white hair and strength enough to carry a deer under one arm.

'Big Foot' in Mississippi?

NATCHEZ, Miss. (AP) — Police in Natchez are investigating reports of a huge, hairy creature described by residents who sighted it as "almost human."

The residents, who summoned police, said the "Big Foot" creature growled at a dog and was frightened away when the patrol car arrived.

Police said they found footprints, broken three limbs and other evidence that something was in the area.

Three occupants of one house said they looked out and saw "a huge, hairy creature, well over 6 feet tall, and dark, barefoot and naked."

They said the creature walked with a limp and appeared curious, as if it wanted something.

The Birmingham, Al. News. Jan. 19, 1977. Credit: John Marshall

Editor's note: I have, of lately, been re-evaluating my involvment in forteana. I have decided that at the present I am devoting too much time and money to fortean research while ignoring more relavant areas. So in order to cut back I'm giving up a few subscriptions, etc., and also I am cutting back SHADOWS to a bi-monthly publication. If time and money permit I might put an extra one out or I might just add another page. I do not forsee abandoning SHADOWS altogether. Thank you for continued support and co-operation.

Tim Church

NOTES

Histrionic Pub. Co., Inc., 280 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10016 has released issue one of an annual magazine on Loch Ness. Despite its comic book like cover it seems to be a worthy buy at $1.25.

Canada's Monsters by Betty Sanders Garner. Potlatch Pub., 35 Dalewood Cresent, Hamilton, Ont., Canada L8S 4B5, price $4.95.

Well it seems that every time Loch Ness starts getting attention that the Russians announce they have one too. Last time it was in the 1960's and now Moscow released a new one. A member of the Soviet Geographical Society reported a sighting of a 50 foot, snake like creature in Lake Kok-Kol in southern Kazakhastin. A. Pechersky wrote to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA saying he and his son had visited lake Kok-Kol after hearing legends of a monster. He was fortunate enough to witness the creature as it swam along the bank. "The head, about 1 meter wide, and over 2 meters long, stood motionless just as the tip of the tail did. Terrified I scrambled up the bank for my gun, on the way warning Volodaya, who had also noticed the strange disturbance and was already climbing up." A scientist, Sergei K. Klumov, was reported to be collecting material on this and other unknown animals.

Dallas Morning News, Feb. 3, 1977. Credit: Tom Adams.

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